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not compare at all unfavorably, in point of fairness, with that stanch bulwark of the common law, Sir Edward Coke, for instance.

To sum up the results of Mr. Pollock's scholarly study: While emphasizing sufficiently the mendacity of the informers and the unscrupulous use that the party leaders made of their disclosures, he has shown us just what Protestants had to fear and why the panic was possible, and has estimated the trials of the accused in their true setting. Actual errors of fact or statement are remarkably few. Father Pollen, in a note to the *Athenæum* for July 18, points out that his attack on Gavan (p. 201) is not substantiated from the evidence cited, and that by unintentionally misreading a sentence he has confused the Jesuit father with the coachman of the imperial ambassador. Occasional slips in proof-reading occur. The reference to Pepys's *Diary* (p. 88) should be 1669 not 1699; Oates's second deposition consisted apparently of 81 not 83 articles (p. 90); Baron Flowerdue was raised to the bench in 1584 not 1684 (p. 277, note 3); and in the abstract of the penal laws the two dated 1603 and 1609 (pp. 402, 403) were passed in 1604 and 1610 respectively, although in each case Parliament met before the close of the former year, according to the old style.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

*The Cambridge Modern History.* Planned by the late LORD ACTON, LL.D., Regius Professor of Modern History. Edited by A. W. WARD, Litt.D., G. W. PROTHERO, Litt.D., and STANLEY LEATHES, M.A. Vol. VII. The United States. (London: Macmillan and Company; New York: The Macmillan Co. 1903. Pp. xxvii, 857.)

COMPOSITE histories, the work of various hands, are now a familiar type, of which every country has its examples. They are hard to review within reasonable bounds, for the work of the editors and of each of the writers demands separate consideration before one can arrive at a just judgment of the whole. The present volume contains twenty-three chapters, by thirteen different writers; little can be said in detail of each.

The work of the editors, which on the whole has been performed less satisfactorily than that of the contributors, deserves some indulgence on account of the difficulties which must have been occasioned by Lord Acton's illness and death, and the attendant confusion of plans; however, there was no compulsion to publish at a specified time. The task of the editors of such a book is, no doubt, to devise the chapters, fix their respective limits and lengths, select the writers, impart a common ideal of treatment, revise the texts, give uniformity and completeness to the bibliographies, and supply the index. The mechanical execution was already in good hands. Lord Acton's general plan for the volume was that, finding its place in his series near the end of the eighteenth century, it should recount the whole history of the English in America and of the United States from the beginning to the present time. This followed from his general principle of arrangement, that the history of each people

should be taken up at the point at which it was drawn into the main stream of human progress as represented by the European nations. It results in giving to the volume a unity greater than will be possessed by most of the other volumes. Those parts of the history of Spanish America which should naturally precede have already been briefly treated by Mr. Payne in the first volume.

In general the scheme of chapters is well devised. The deviations from the chronological or usual arrangement are: that the history of the French in America to 1744 is separately treated; that between the chapter on the quarrel with Great Britain and that on the War of Independence a chapter entitled "The Declaration of Independence" is inserted, intended to review in a different manner the same period as that covered by its predecessor; that after the chapters on the Civil War come three others, on the naval operations, the North, and the South during the Civil War; and that at the end of the volume follow two chapters on the economic development of the United States and on the American intellect. There is exceedingly little duplication in the volume, and most matters that one would expect to find in chapters of this sort are dealt with, even if not always where one would expect to find them. There are, however, grave defects in respect to proportion. The formative colonial period is scanty (sixty-nine pages to the English, but forty-three more to the French). If thirty-four pages is enough for the Revolutionary War, and perhaps it is if a merely military treatment is satisfactory, twenty-three is too many for the events of the French and Indian War. Fifty-seven pages devoted to the Convention of 1787 and ninety to the whole period from that time to 1850 is a proportion impossible to defend. Finally, nearly a fourth of the book is given to the four years of the Civil War.

In the choice and securing of contributors the editors have done surprisingly well — in these days when nearly everybody is already engaged to at least two series. In some cases the writer is the best man that could be mentioned for the particular chapter; in nearly all he is one of the four or five one would first think of. Eight of the twenty-three chapters are written by Europeans. In this there is gain and loss, for American readers. European writers will not always see things from the point of view that is most useful to us. No American would give an account of the War of 1812 so purely professional that one would suppose that there was no politics in the United States from 1812 to 1816. They will not always call things by our names or know our geography. Mr. Doyle's indifference to the points of compass in America is not unknown from previous examples; he makes Burgoyne throw out a flanking party "to the north-east to act in Connecticut" (p. 215), and sends the Massachusetts expedition of 1779 "to attack the British settlement at Penobscot, on the coast of what is now New Brunswick" (p. 220). But what American writer would, on the whole, deal with the subjects of his four chapters — the first century of English colonization, the years from 1700 to 1763, the quarrel with Great Britain, and the War of Inde-

pendence — at once so competently and with so much candor and catholicity of view.

The various chapters maintain, on the whole with quite sufficient uniformity, a common mode of treatment. The editorial revision of the texts has left some errors, but we have no space to speak of them, nor are they, in general, significant. The bibliography has not been printed with sufficient care. The reviewer has observed more than a hundred small errors in it. This is not creditable. The index seems to be good.

Turning now to the work of the individual writers, Mr. Doyle must be praised for the skill with which, within the excessively narrow limits assigned to him, he treats of the history of the colonies. He treats with noticeably more freshness and interest those parts on which he has not yet published *in extenso* elsewhere. His chapter on the quarrel with Great Britain is mostly confined to a record of events. Mr. M. M. Bigelow's chapter, which follows it, and to which the same chronological limits have been assigned, was apparently intended to supplement this record of the external course of the quarrel with a broad historical exposition of the disputed questions, their merits, and the general meaning of the strife. If so, the chapter must be a disappointment. It is a cloistered lawyer's scholastic discussion of the grievances, with constant and almost sole reference to the manner in which similar difficulties were adjusted in the Constitution of the United States a score of years later; a thing which, it is safe to say, few readers want. The same writer's chapter on the Constitution is of similar quality. It contains almost no information or suggestion on the sources and mutual relations of the provisions of that document. It is hardly more than a myopic summary of the debates in the Convention. In several cases more than a page is devoted to the epitome of a single speech. Meanwhile the Convention is left without background, neither Mr. Doyle nor Mr. Bigelow giving any adequate account of the civil history of the years from 1776 to 1789. Even the history of the struggle for the ratification of the Constitution is greatly scanted; and the chapter ends with the following extraordinary expression of judgment: "Every great undertaking has its master spirit; the master spirit of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, and all that led to it, was Alexander Hamilton. There were other strong leaders . . . but Hamilton, present or absent, . . . was chief among them."

Professor McMaster's three chapters, covering the years from 1789 (indeed in a sense from 1783) to 1850, have his characteristic merits. Some important matters of a constitutional sort are omitted; for instance, the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions go unmentioned. The sense of proportion is defective, and there are needless and probably confusing departures from chronological order. The writer values illustrative more than probative facts. His eye is for the picturesque rather than for the deeper realities; the acquisition of Louisiana is but an incident in the passing show. But his narrative is always vivacious and original. It has a seizing power. The reader cannot fail to hear in it the hum

of American progress. President Wilson's chapter, which has for its subject the ten years preceding the Civil War, but goes back a good deal to pick up threads which Mr. McMaster has dropped, is deeper, and is indeed an admirable summary.

As has already been remarked, a great amount of space is given to the Civil War. There are three chapters on its military events by the late Mr. John G. Nicolay, one on its naval history by Mr. H. W. Wilson (who studiously avoids all names for the contestants but Northern and Southern), one on the North during the Civil War by Mr. Nicolay, and one on the South during the Civil War, an admirable summary of constitutional, financial, and economic facts, by Professor John C. Schwab. Mr. Nicolay's treatment of the events of the war is excellent. It is indeed the narrative of a participant, and of a friend and biographer of Lincoln. Somewhat too much space is given to minor incidents relating to Lincoln and especially to the closing incidents of the warfare. But great pains have evidently been taken, and with good effect, to be exact and perspicuous, to preserve proportion, and to keep the general aspects of the war in mind, amid all the military details. Not so much praise can be given to the chapter in which the same writer deals with the North during the war. Two-thirds of its pages are given to the processes of emancipation, while the taxes and the tariff are ignored, and diplomacy and party politics are slighted. The chapter is not at all a successful picture of the North in war-time, nor a well-rounded civil history of the period. Its tone, too, is not quite so fair as that of Mr. Nicolay's other chapters. Mr. T. C. Smith's chapter on the Reconstruction period, a model of summary statement, shows a tone strongly contrasting—the cooler tone of one to whom the war-time and the events succeeding it are purely matter of history. Professor J. B. Moore's chapter on "The United States as a World-Power (1885-1902)" has too much the character of a chronicle of incidents, not penetrating below the surface; but it is hard to avoid this fault in respect to years so recent. It is a well-informed chronicle; but it might be better proportioned. Five pages out of thirty-one are given to a history of the treaty of 1898; its results were important, its process not necessarily so. To this succeeds an excellent chapter on the economic development of the United States in the nineteenth century, by Professor H. C. Emery.

This chapter and that of Professor Barrett Wendell on the American intellect will perhaps give the reader more food for thought than any of the others. Composite histories cannot usually do much more than present acceptably the results of a generation of monographs; but here are two unhackneyed subjects on which it is possible even here to exhibit originality. We have had no lack of American literary history, to be sure; but not much effort has been made to relate the history of the American intellect to the history of American life. Mr. Wendell gives utterance to some hasty generalizations; indeed, to the present writer his fundamental thesis, that the American has always resembled the Elizabethan Englishman more than the contemporary Englishman has done,

seems unsound. He appears not well acquainted with those varieties of American religion and philosophy, particularly outside of New England, which have not found expression in literature. But it is impossible not to admire his intelligence, his candor, his unconventional courage and pungency of expression. The recent course of American literature he leaves in large part unexplained. May we not say that the New England literature, which he rightly declares to be now substantially a closed body, flowed from a society which from 1820 to 1860 was practically a homogeneous nation; and that, until the American nation as a whole attains to something of the same homogeneous quality, we are not to expect an American literature which shall bear the same relation to it that the classical New England writings bore to the population from which they sprang? We must settle ourselves upon the lees of time. Walt Whitman is not the Messiah of the new dispensation, but rather a clamorous John Baptist, minus the humility, wearing with ostentation his raiment of camel's-hair, and eating his locusts and wild honey with theatrical gusto.

All things considered, no single volume of its size affords so good a history of the United States as this. It will not prove enormously popular; it has too little chauvinism, takes too largely the foreigner's or the Martian's point of view, to make that likely. Yet as it can be bought separately, and as there is a genuine need for a solid history of the United States of about this size, it should have a relatively large success with the public, as well as a cordial appreciation from scholars.

J. FRANKLIN JAMESON.

*A History of the Mississippi Valley from its Discovery to the End of Foreign Domination.* By JOHN R. SPEARS, in collaboration with A. H. CLARK. (New York: A. S. Clark. 1903. Pp. xxi, 416.)

A book of 140,000 words, abundantly illustrated, at first sight mechanically attractive, and bearing the name of a well-known writer, readily commands attention, the presumption being that where such effort has been made, the result should in some measure be commensurate. In the present case, we regret to say that disillusionment follows examination. It is difficult to say what were the respective parts taken by the two authors. In the preface and not infrequently in the text, the first person singular is used. Possibly the less-practised associate may have done the research work, leaving the narrative to Mr. Spears. From either point of view, however, the undertaking is on the whole painfully crude.

Never scholarly, the literary style is frequently either awkward or undignified. The subheadings to the chapters suggest the friendly assistance of the telegraph editor. There is a marked tendency to the use of extreme and somewhat sensational epithets and phrases, with the purpose, no doubt, of enlivening the text. For example — we have space for but one or two citations — we are told (p. 141) that the “forged statement”